Indeed all praise is due to Allaah, we praise Him, we seek His help and His forgiveness. We seek refuge with Allaah from the evil of ourselves and the evil of our actions. Whomsoever Allaah guides no one can misguide, whomsoever He misguides no one can guide. I testify that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allaah alone. He is One and has no partners and I testify that Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم is His slave and Messenger. May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him and his Family, Companions, and followers.

To proceed.

To my Muslim Sister in every part of the world.

Know, O believing sister, that you are a twin to the man, identical to him and a part of the human race. You are a mother, a wife, a daughter, a sister, an aunt, a granddaughter and a grandmother.

Our Messenger Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم said: **Indeed women are the twins of men.**[1]

So you, O sister in Islam, are a part of a great honourable Ummah and that is the Ummah of Islaam, the like of which you will not find on this earth: an Ummah which brought forth leaders, ordinary men, great men and conquerors!

1 Related by Ahmad, Aboo Daawood, at-Tirmidhee, from 'Aa'ishah and other than her. (Saheeh al-Jaami'232>9).

First and foremost, your *Ummah is* the *Ummah ot* guidance and the true religion. It is the best *Ummah* which Allaah, blessed be His name, has raised up for mankind to enjoin what is good and forbid what is evil, to command the human race to be just and righteous (according to the law of Allaah *(Sharee'ah)* and the *Sunnah* of his Messenger Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم).

Liberating the people from worshipping other deities to worshipping the Lord of the creation, the Most Perfect, the only one who is worthy of being worshipped, from the distress of this world to the ease and comfort of this life and to the next and from the injustice of the other religions to the justice of Islaam.

There is no doubt that the pious women from the *Salafot* this *Ummah* were one of the greatest reasons for placing this *Ummah* to its mighty and elevated position.
Know, O good sister, that Allaah, the Most Mighty, has given women a great status regarding authority and honour as He, the Most Majestic, says:

وَٱلْمُؤْمِنُونَ وَٱلْمُؤْمِنَٰتُ بَعْضُهُمْ أَوْلِيَآءُ بَعْضٍۚ يَأْمُرُونَ بِٱلْمَعْرُوفِ
وَيَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ ٱلْمُنكَرِ وَيُقِيمُونَ ٱلصَّلَوٰةَ وَيُؤْتُونَ ٱلزَّكَوٰةَ وَيُطِيعُونَ ٱللَّهَ
وَرَسُولَهُۥٓۚ أُو۟لَٰٓئِكَ سَيَرْحَمُهُمُ ٱللَّهُۗ إِنَّ ٱللَّهَ عَزِيزٌ حَكِيمٌ ﴿٧١﴾

The believers, men and women, are supporters of one another, they enjoin the good and forbid the evil; they offer their prayers perfectly, give the *zakah* and obey Allaah and His Messenger. Allaah will grant His Mercy unto them. Surely Allaah is All-Mighty, All Wise.[1]

Allaah has prescribed laws for you, O my sister, from His rules, regulations and legislative power. He has given you special and distinctive qualities which befit you and are appropriate to suit your nature. Allaah, the Most Perfect, has said about Himself:

Should He not know who He has created? He is the Most Kind and Courteous, All-Aware."

You are invited, O my sister, to go back to Allaah and hold fast to His religion and to stick to the *Sunnah* of His Prophet Muhammad ^ and to be a sincere member of the Muslim *Ummah,* to sacrifice and strive towards building a guided Muslim generation to carry the torch of *eemaan* again.

[1] Soorah at-Tawbah: 71.
[2] Soorah al-Mulk:14.

O my sister, the enemies of Islaam wherever they are want to deviate you away from your noble mission and significant effort in serving the religion, building and nurturing the *Ummah*. So we find them offering you exciting worldly temptations and transitory ornaments like those at trinket and jewelry exhibitions. Captivating and deluding fashion models, outrageous and shameful examples!

All this is from the plotting of the unbelievers. Furthermore, we find them in a continuous struggle, burning desires, bellies which are never satisfied, destructive ornaments, struggling to seduce, as if you were created only for this nonsense which disgusts the pure soul.

This is the extent of their call to extravagance, envy, ostentation and imitation.

Then we see those wrong doers fueling enmity and hatred between you and the man. In their belief you are an isolated daughter, an oppressed wife, a ruined mother and a sister with no power for making any decisions! They claim that the Muslim men are unjust, hypocrites, oppressors and arrogant. All these things are deliberate and planned arguments to make you rebel against the father, to be proud over the brother and to commit unlawful actions outside the marriage tie.

They do not call to justice, mercy and harmony. They are propagating repulsion, ill respect, ruining of lives and oppression.

Then we find all those cheaters still unsatisfied with all of this. They invert the concepts, changing the truth, inciting the women to abandon the *Sharee'ah* and its limits. They portray piety and modesty as chains against liberty. They say prescribed Islaamic *hijaab* is a veil to the mind and thought! Praying and fasting are useless and a waste of time! Obeying the husband is a disgrace and an insult!

O my sister, those people are like wild wolves. They want you to be manipulated by their sinful and tyrannical desires in every place; the offices, on the roads and at their corrupted entertaining places. Naked from every morality, dignity and religion.

They want you to be without any law of conduct except their sordid, enticing lifestyle, ignoble desires and contagious ways.

They are an imitation of their western unbelieving ancestors where their women were under tyrannies, indecency and were a cheap commodity, despite the fact that they claim equality. What sort of equality is that? It is the equality of disgrace, disrespect and forfeiting the rights of women.

O my sister, observe the women who have put aside their modesty and decency in following their desires and despicable behaviour as well as the footsteps of the arrogant and those who went astray. What was the result and the fruits of all this?

O my sister, be proud of your religion because this religion is your honour and the honour of your father and your ancestors. Be a good example to your sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, family and your neighbours. Have a pure association with your glorious *Ummah*.

Know that modesty is a noble fruit with those who have a concern and vulgarity is a vice with the actions even if they call it many names such as "love", "liberty" and "equality".

Bear in mind, O my sister, that your everlasting happiness lies in you being a humble and virtuous daughter, a kind and loyal wife, a good and pious mother together with magnifying the truth, beautifying the good, and enlightening yourself with *eemaan*.

Know, O my sister, that the prayer is the backbone of the religion and that which distinguishes between the Muslim and the unbeliever. Fasting is a pillar and charity is one of the best actions with which Allaah wipes away the sins of the disobedient and negligence of the sinners.

Always remember, O my sister, that those scantily dressed women who have taken off the veil of modesty and have dressed themselves with the dress of temporal civilisations, will neither enter Paradise nor smell its fragrance.

Know and inform those whom you know, my virtuous sister, that the Islaamic *hijaab* has many conditions. The most important of those are:

1)To cover the whole body[1] except the face and hands.[2]

2) It should not be a means of beautification nor of affluence.

3) It should not be eye-catching.

4) It should not be close fitting so that it does not to describe the shape of the body.[3]

5) It should not be transparent so as not to reveal whatever is beneath it.

6) It should not be perfumed.

7) It should not resemble the dress of the unbelievers.

8) It should not resemble men's dress.

As a final word, I direct my talk to the women in general in our Muslim lands. I say to her, beware of falling into the same trap that the women in the disbelieving lands fell into, where she could not find a religion that protected her rights. As for the women in the Muslim lands, what is her excuse when Allaah has sent down for her the religion to protect whatever rights and justice she was yearning for.

We do not want the women in our countries to be mere parrots repeating whatever is said to her, to dress up in whatever is made for her, to be dragged after every whim, to run after every misleading attraction and to exhaust herself and to become breathless in following every desire.

We want the woman to have her own unique personality, in her *'aqeedah,* the thought, the manners, the dress and the mode of life. The *'aqeedah* is the most important principal of our true religion, so beware of that which is alien to it, like supplica ting to other than Allaah, such as the Prophets, pious people, righteous people, or to swear, sacrifice and vow to other than Allaah. Visiting the sooth-sayers and fortune-tellers, using amulets, practising exorcism involving polytheism and everything which resembles the actions of unbelief and misguidance.

The essence of my speech is:

We want Muslim women who evaluate the matters according to the methodology of Allaah, the Greatest, to look upon life through the Noble Qur'aan, to be aware of the Hereafter while she is in this world, to take al-Islaam as a guide and way of life and the *Sunnah* of the Messenger ?fe as a good example. This is the sort of woman that we want, who can accomplish many beneficial things in this life both for herself and for others.

O my sister, in this book which you now hold in your hands is a reminder and a nourishment for this life. It is a life that could be long or short, but at the end of it, there will be death and then the grave. The graves of the people of Paradise will be widened by seventy arms lengths and will be filled with greenery until the Day of Judgment. However the people of Hellfire will be hit by metal hammers and their graves will be narrowed down crushing their ribs.

Then there will be the Resurrection!! Then the Gathering!! Then the producing of the deeds and then the Judgment!! After this we shall be given an everlasting dwelling, a permanent abode and eternal residence either in Paradise, which is as wide as the heavens and the earth, or in a blazing dark black fire.

كُلُّ نَفْسٍ ذَآئِقَةُ ٱلْمَوْتِ ۗ وَإِنَّمَا تُوَفَّوْنَ أُجُورَكُمْ يَوْمَ ٱلْقِيَٰمَةِ ۖ فَمَن زُحْزِحَ
عَنِ ٱلنَّارِ وَأُدْخِلَ ٱلْجَنَّةَ فَقَدْ فَازَ ۗ وَمَا ٱلْحَيَوٰةُ ٱلدُّنْيَآ إِلَّا مَتَٰعُ ٱلْغُرُورِ

Whoever is removed away from the Fire and admitted into Paradise he *will* be successful.[4]

0 my sister, these are the words of hope and the words of the Trustworthy Adviser. Beware of Satan's followers and the army of Iblees who wa nt to put you under temptations and deceptions. Be the righteous slave girl of Allaah and a descendent of the noble and righteous. Know that your role in building up the *Ummahis* a great one. So perform your role and do not be the means that lead to ruin and destruction but be the maker of honour and glory. 1 urge you again to go back to the two mighty revelations, the Book of Allaah, the Most perfect and the *Sunnah* of His Messenger ^ so that we achieve the happiness of this life and the next. The conclusion of my call is to praise and thank Allaah, the Lord of the Worlds.

Aboo al-Haarith 'Alee bin Hasan bin 'Alee
az-Zarqaa 1 Ramadan 1405 H

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[1] Do not shorten your dress as some women do by exposing their ankles. This is not permissible.
[2] However, covering them is better and more protective especially in this time where women are faced with a lot of *fitnah*.
[3] Some women cover their heads with what is known as an *e 'shaarib* which describes the size of the head and does not cover the neck and the chest, so beware of that.
[4] Soorah Aal 'Imraan: 185.

Prophetic Narrations

Aboo Hurayrah related that the Messenger of Allaah صلى الله عليه وسلم said: **If a woman prayed her five daily prayers, fasted in the month, protected her private parts from illegal sexual intercourse and obeyed her husband, it will be said to her: Enter Paradise from whichever gate you like.**

(Saheeh ul-Jaami'674)

Ibn 'Umar 4fe related that the Messenger of Allaah صلى الله عليه وسلم said: **All of this world is an enjoyment and the best enjoyment of this world is a good and pious woman.**

(Saheeh ul-Jaami'34Q7)

Words In Light Of This Topic

The women's issue is a matter that should concern every father and son, as long as we have fathers and sons in this world there will be a deep respect for women's dignity. Those who do not distinguish between honour and indecency are drowned in illusions and swamps.

(Mustafa as-Sabaa'ee)

O women, you are half of the *Ummah* and as you give birth to the other half, you become the whole *Ummah*.

(Muhammad bin Ismaa'eel al-Muqaddam)

O sisters in Islaam, this concise advice which I am going to give is very important advice. It is advice to remind you and enable you to safeguard yourselves, your husbands, your children, to strengthen your religion in this world and therefore improving your condition in the Hereafter, *inshallaah*.

Caring About The Family

This falls under two main categories:

Firstly, the husband.

Secondly, the children.

I am starting with a discussion about the upbringing of the family because society is based upon this focal point, the family. If the family is good and upright, then the Islaamic society will be good and upright. Whereas if the family becomes corrupt and bad, then the society will in turn become corrupt and bad.

1) The Husband:

The issues relating to his care and rights are many, but I will mention the two most important things.

a) To look after your husband in regards to obeying him and agreeing to his requests according to what the law of Islaam has brought, as the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم said: **There is no obedience to the creation when it involves disobedience to the Creator.**[1]

b) To give him and fulfill his personal needs and rights, whether it is financial, material or personal support. The husband should also give due rights to the wife and the family by looking after them, co-operating with them and help in bringing them up so that they may become righteous.

2) The Children:

This also falls under two main categories.

a) Their upbringing and care with regards to their health, food, clothing and love.

b) Bringing them up with good manners and teaching them the rulings of the *sharee'ah*, nurturing and encouraging them to attain these good characteristics. Also to teach the children that they are Muslims and when they grow up they will have to serve this religion. They will also have to call to the guidance of the Lord of the Worlds and be followers of the *Sunnah* of the best of the Prophets.

[1] Related by al-Baghawee in *Shark us-Sunnah(W/44)*.

To Preserve Your Obedience To Allaah

My second piece of advice to you is to preserve your obedience and duties to Allaah. This falls under two categories:

1) Acts of worship *(al-'Ibaadah)*

2) Knowledge.

1) Acts of worship.

As for the most important act of worship; it is the prayer because it is the greatest pillar of action in Islaam. Many women ignore the importance of the prayer or they know its importance, yet they rush it or do not pray it on time. This is a very big mistake and it has to be rectified.

Secondly, fasting is from one of the greatest acts of worship. Allaah, the Most High, says in a *hadeeth qudsi*: **All actions are for the son of Adam, except for fasting. It is for Me and I will give the reward for it.**[1]

In another *hadeeth qudsi* he says: My slave does not keep coming closer to Me with the non-obligatory things until I love him more.[2]

So this is an encouragement for the Muslim women to increase upon fasting, but of course this must be with the permission and agreement of the husband. This applies only to the non-obligatory fast. As for the prayers, they are obligatory and very important so she must preserve them. Allaah, the Most Mighty and the Most Majestic, says about the prayer:

Preserve your prayers, especially the middle prayer.[3]

He, the Most Perfect and the Most High, says:

فَإِذَا قَضَيۡتُمُ ٱلصَّلَوٰةَ فَٱذۡكُرُواْ ٱللَّهَ قِيَٰمٗا وَقُعُودٗا وَعَلَىٰ جُنُوبِكُمۡۚ فَإِذَا ٱطۡمَأۡنَنتُمۡ فَأَقِيمُواْ ٱلصَّلَوٰةَۚ إِنَّ ٱلصَّلَوٰةَ كَانَتۡ عَلَى ٱلۡمُؤۡمِنِينَ كِتَٰبٗا مَّوۡقُوتٗا

Prayer has been prescribed for the believers at fixed times.[4]

2) Knowledge

With regards to knowledge:

The woman must increase upon attending the gatherings of knowledge in which the scholars and the students of knowledge discuss and talk about the important issues of the religion. If they cannot do that, then it has been made easy by Allaah that tapes are available. Listen to the tapes of the scholars and students of knowledge. This is very easy, especially in this country.

There are books and magazines based upon the Qur'aan and *Sunnah,* and the methodology of the *Salaf*. So this is something they should be keen for and fervent in trying to read them.

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[1] Related by al-Bukhaaree (4/118) and Muslim (1151).
[2] Related by al-Bukhaaree (6502).
[3] Soorah al-Baqarah: 238.
[4] Soorah an-Nisaa: 103.

Relationships

The third advice is to try to solve the differences and problems which occur between the Muslim sisters. These differences and problems which arise in relationships can occur in two ways:

Firstly, the relationship between the sister and the husband.

Secondly, the relationship between the sister and other sisters.

1) As for the first, the relationship with the husband, there follows a second problem, that is the problem of the husband's family, and these problems occur frequently. I believe these problems with the husband's family are easy to solve and within control if the wife endeavours and is patient, strives with her soul and tries to put in her heart obedience of her Lord first. Allaah will then make her affairs easy for her.

Also if she depends upon Allaah, the Most Perfect and the Most High, and has the *taqwaa* of Allaah and reminds herself of what Allaah, the Most Perfect and the Most High says:

وَمَن يَتَّقِ ٱللَّهَ يَجۡعَل لَّهُۥ مَخۡرَجٗا

Whoever has the *taqwaa* of Allaah, then Allaah will find a way out for him.[1]

Allaah, the Most Perfect and the Most High, says:

أَلَيۡسَ ٱللَّهُ بِكَافٍ عَبۡدَهُۥۖ

Isn't Allaah sufficient for His slave? [2]

So they must try to solve their problems.

The second way to treat the husband who has bad qualities is to use the opposite treatment of the way in which he treats the wife.

So if he is hard, then be soft; if he is harsh, then be gentle; if he speaks in a rude and in a abrupt way, then speak in a soft and polite way. If the husband has any *eemaan* remaining in him, and some sort of sensitivity, then he will return to good behaviour after a few days or weeks. He will feel that this wife is being gentle and patient, while he is being so harsh and cruel.

He should realise his mistakes and that his wife is a good and believing woman who has patience, and as Allaah, the Most Mighty and the Most Majestic, says:

If you are patient, then know that it is better for the patient.[3]

I would like to make another important point, that is, at times the sisters find bad qualities in their husbands: they may be violent, bad tempered, disrespectful, insensitive and rude.

There are two solutions in these sorts of circumstances. The first is that you go to your elders, scholars and students of knowledge, get advice and sort out this problem. If the husband accepts their advice, then *Alhamdulillaab,* this is something we praise Allaah for. If he does not accept the advice of the scholars and students of knowledge, then he really must repent and doubt himself.

2) As for the problems which arise between sisters, then this usually happens because of envy, jealousy and competition. It could also be due to mistakes and assumptions made by unjustified suspicions towards a sister. A sister may suspect her sister and think: " Why is that sister doing this action?", "Why did she visit such and such a person?", "Why did she not come to me?", "Why did she talk that way?"

However she should remember that her sister in the religion is greater and closer to her than her own blood sister. It is obligatory for the Muslim sister to be patient and to fear Allaah, the Most Perfect and the Most High, and to find solutions for the problems, whether they are with the family, with the husband, or with other sisters.

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[1] Soorah at-Talaaq: 2.
[2] Soorah a/.-Zumar: 36.
[3] Soorah an-Nahl: *126.*

Spending Time Wisely

The fourth advice to the noble sisters is to preserve one's time and to take care not to waste it. We know from experience and from reliable people who tell us that many women waste their time. It could be for two reasons.

They waste time with other sisters, talking and discussing things which are not important.

It could be due to being busy with the requirements of the house, family and children.

The righteous woman should be able to balance between the responsibilities of the family, the responsibilities of the house and children, working and making an effort in her own religion. Yes, this will be tiring and exhausting, but as Allaah, the Most Mighty and the Most Majestic, says:

Those who strive hard towards Me, then We will guide them to Our path. [1]

As for the sisters who sit amongst themselves, then I advise them that they should give *salaam* to each other, ask each other how they are and ask about themselves, but this should not take more than ten to fifteen minutes. The rest of their sitting should be spent in activities like:

Listening to the tapes of the scholars and the students ot knowledge.

Going through a book about knowledge, Islaamic law, education and methodology, etc.

These things, will, *Inshaallaah* close the door to shaytaan, the outcast, who loves to divert the worshipper from Allaah, and from His obedience, the Most Perfect and the Most High.

[1] Soorah al-'Ankaboot: 69

The Tongue

The fifth and final advice is preserving and safeguarding the tongue. This is done in two ways:

By keeping away the negative things which come to the tongue. Such as the things which arise from it such as jealousy, hatred, envy, backbiting, gossiping, spreading what one hears of talk and suspicion.

Bearing the fruits and benefits of the tongue by doing *dhikr* (remembering Allaah), calling people to Allaah, enjoining the good and forbidding the evil.

In what I have mentioned, if the woman takes this angle, and preserves the family, her husband, the children, and her faith, then she, *inshaallaah,* will be the righteous wife. Obedient when her husband orders her, pleasing when he looks at her, and preserving and protecting her secrets, as the Messenger of Allaah صلى الله عليه وسلم said (and this is what she will be): **The best thing that a person can have is a righteous wife.**[1]

Remember that shaytaan wants to distract the worshipper of Allaah from the truth, as Allaah, the Most Mighty and the Most Majestic, says what shaytaan said to Him:

By Your Majesty, I will try to take them all away from Your path, except for your sincere worshippers.[2]

So shaytaan whispers into the minds of Muslims to take them away from the obedience and worship of Allaah, to take them away from His pleasure and to take people into His anger and discontent. So the one who lives such a life, a life taken over by shaitaan, and dominated by shaytaan, then this person will earn the anger of Allaah.

I pray that Allaah may protect those who live in this country as shaytaan will come and make it beautiful for you; this life in the West, this life of the unbelievers, full of corruption. Taking you away from the correct path, by its wealth, by its nakedness, by its arrogance and taking you away from the obedience of Allaah and His Messenger صلى الله عليه وسلم.

Remember in the times when you feel like this, what the Messenger of Allaah صلى الله عليه وسلم said to 'Umar : **O Umar! Are you not pleased that the world is for them (the unbelievers), and for us is the Hereafter?** [3]

He صلى الله عليه وسلم also said: **The world is a prison for the believer, but a paradise for the unbeliever.**[4]

So I pray that you follow the right path and remain strong on the path of the *Sunnah,* and all praise is for Allaah, the Lord of the Worlds.

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[1] Related by Muslim (3465) and an-Nisaa'ee (6/69).
[2] Soorah Saad: 82.
[3] Related by al-Bukhaaree (6/435).
[4] Related by Muslim (7058).